

**Claims**

1. A device for adapting the coating width of a coating system comprising a distribution chamber having a coating slot and at least one piston with a sealing sheet, the at least one piston being arranged at one end of the distribution chamber so as to be movable along the coating slot and the sealing sheet essentially sealing off the coating slot.
5. The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for applying a confining fluid to the side of the piston facing away from the coating fluid so as to simulate a continuous material web.
10. A device for adapting the coating width of a coating system, comprising at least one limiting means limiting a coating slot, wherein the limiting means is movable, a confining fluid being applicable to it.
15. The device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one limiting means is a piston.
20. 5. The device according to claim 4, wherein the piston is provided with a sealing sheet extending into the coating slot.
25. 6. The device according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the piston is arranged in a distribution chamber for the coating fluid.
7. The device according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the piston is sealed off against the distribution chamber by at least one sealing element.
30. 8. The device according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the piston is provided with two sealing elements which are positioned approximately at the beginning and the end of the sealing sheet.
9. The device according to claim 8, wherein the confining fluid is supplied between the sealing elements.
35. 10. The device according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the coating slot has a width of approx. 5 µm to 500 µm, preferably approx. 100 µm to approx. 250 µm.

11. The device according to any of claims 2 to 10, wherein the portion of confining fluid is approx. 0.25 % to 10 %, preferably approx. 0.5 % to approx. 2 % of the coating fluid used.

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12. The device according to any of claims 1, 2 or 4 to 11, wherein the confining fluid is supplied to the piston heads via the piston rods.

13. The device according to any of claims 1 to 12, wherein the pressure of the 10 confining fluid and/or the coating fluid is adjustable via the height of an adjustable dam.

14. The device according to any of claims 1 to 13, wherein the confining fluid and/or the coating fluid is/are supplied via a dosage pump or a dropping system.

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15. The device according to any of claims 1 to 14, wherein the confining fluid comprises an aqueous solution.

16. A method for adapting the coating width of a coating system by moving means 20 for limiting the coating slot along the coating slot.

17. A method for adapting the coating width of a coating system by applying a confining fluid in the edge area of the means to be coated.

25 18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein a continuous material web is simulated in the edge area of the means to be coated by means of a/the confining fluid.

19. The method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the coating is effected by 30 means of a coating fluid applied through the coating slot which is limited laterally by sealing sheets which thus define the coating width, a confining fluid that laterally adjoins the coating fluid being passed essentially along the sealing sheets through the coating slot.

35 20. The method according to any of claims 16 to 20, wherein the coating width is adjusted by moving the limiting means and/or sealing sheets relative to each other.